Border Eagle

Vol. 47, No. 11

Laughlin AFB, Texas ... Training the world's best pilots

March 26, 1999

Jewsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlir

Talent show

Spring Stages III, Laughlin's base talent show, will be presented Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Fiesta Center here. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the free event, hosted by the 47th Services Division. For more information on this event, see the story on page 12 and call K.C. Radloff at 5474.

Ceremony

An assumption of command ceremony for the 96th Flying Training Squadron is scheduled for April 2 at 5 p.m. at the flightline here.

Lt. Col. John O'Connor will assume command of the squadron. Col. Dan R. Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, will be the presiding officer.

In case of inclement weather, the alternate site for the ceremony is the Operations Training Complex auditorium.

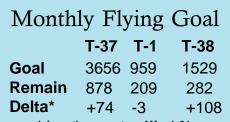
Family Day

This year's Easter egg hunt and Family Day is scheduled for April 3, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fiesta Center here.

In addition to the egg hunt, other activities include a parade, demonstrations by the security forces canine team and the fire department, as well as food booths, games and displays.

Family Day is sponsored by the 47th Flying Training Wing Integrated Delivery System Subcommittee. For more information, call Christine Engel at 298-6495.

See 'Newsline,' page 20



Information current as of March 24. *Sorties ahead/ behind schedule



Cover it up!

Brenda Schamus, an aircraft attendant in the 47th Operations Group, places an intake exhaust cover on a T-1A Jayhawk at the flightline here as the skies threaten

The weather ahead ...

April brings mild warmer afternoons and Laughlin. Freezing temrare and occasionally afreach the 100 degree will continue to pass are usually weak and gen-



evening temperatures, pleasant weather to peratures are extremely ternoon high temperatures mark. Frontal systems through the area, but these erate little organized thun-

derstorm activity. Low overcast morning ceilings are common but are generally short lived and burn off rapidly as the day heats up.

Temperatures (°**F**)

Daily Avg. high, low: 82/60 Record high, low: 104/30

Precipitation (inches)

Monthly average: 1.86 Record max and min: 7.89/0 Record max 24-hour rainfall: 3.51

Interested in the current weather conditions at

Laughlin? Check out the Weather Operations Flight web page at http://weather.laughlin.af.mil/. During severe weather, tune to the Commander's Access Channel on base cable channel 20 for weather warning updates.
(Courtesy 47th Weather Operations Flight)

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Jason **Barlow, 85th Flying Training Squadron** commander, who was recently selected for promotion to colonel. For a list of Laughlin's April promotees, see page ?.

Medical group establishes Family Care Clinic

The 47th Medical Group will be temporarily co-locating its OB/GYN services with the Primary Care Clinic beginning April 5. Both services will be provided where the Primary Care Clinic presently exists.

The consolidation is not an attempt to remove or downsize any services currently provided to either OB or Primary Care patients. Rather, it will result in improved effectiveness, quality, versatility and readiness posture of medical personnel. This equates to greater service for all patients by the pooling of technician and nursing staff resources. The result will be improved services for both OB/GYN and Primary Care patients. The initiative will be reevaluated in six months for effectiveness.

We realize OB patients may have some special concerns over this move. One serious concern to expectant women and their

when sharing a common waiting area with potentially infectious patients. Consultation with our board-certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist and senior Family Practice physicians (along with research of civilian practice guidelines) confirms there exists no increased risk of exposure to disease for OB patients who share a common waiting area with other patients. In fact, routinely, OB patients conduct normal daily activities that include significant interaction with the community at large. These are the very same people you will see in an outpatient clinic such as ours.

Despite this lack of risk, and to further reduce any anxiety our patients may feel, we have coordinated appointment schedules to minimize exposure of our OB patients to possibly infectious patients. OB patients will

spouses is the possible exposure to disease not be scheduled during sick call hours, and pediatric patients will continue to utilize a separate waiting area.

Another serious concern we are especially sensitive to is the issue of privacy. Privacy has always been and remains a priority in every area of the group. An active, continuing staff education program addresses this very subject. All procedures, from check-in through your appointment with a provider, have safeguards to ensure your privacy.

We at the 47th Medical Group continually seek to improve our ability to provide prompt care of the highest quality. We feel the relocation of OB/GYN Services will do just that, since it offers us the ability to increase the efficiency and skill levels of medical personnel – enhancing the quality of care for all our patients.

(Courtesy 47th Medical Group)

Enlisted promotions ...

An in-depth look at the Weighted Airman Promotion System and how it works as a fair system for promotion.

Page 2

Family Readiness ...

An article and checklist for members with families to keep in mind in this time of increased operations tempo.

Pages 3

Basketball champs ...

CES pulls out stunning last-second victory over previously undefeated champs, 84/85th.

Page 16

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality

when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Col. Dan R. Goodrich
47 FTW commander



AAFES 298-3176 Accounting and Finance 298-5204 298-5252 Civil Engineer Civilian Personnel 298-5299 Commissary 298-5815 Dormitory manager 298-5213 Hospital 298-6311 298-5904 Inspector General 298-5638 298-5172 Legal Military Personnel 298-5073 **Public Affairs** 298-5988 Security Forces 298-5900 Services 298-5810 Social Actions 298-5400 FWA hotline 298-4170

Left hanging by our safety belts

People have survived head-on

collisions, rollovers, and being hit

broadside because they took the

time to buckle up.

By Sharon K. Reeves

47th Flying Training Wing Ground Safety Manager

It was 1965; my father and I were leaving the hustle and bustle of California for the serenity of the Midwest.

Before starting our trip, we decided it would be a good idea to buckle our seat belts. At the time, we believed, as most, that putting on a seat belt was a nui-

sance only necessary for long trips – not dashes around town. Little did we know, buckling up that day would be one of the most rewarding tasks of our lives.

We were traveling along a Southern California freeway at a moderate speed, pulling a

trailer. A few miles into our trip, the trailer started to weave. My father didn't appear overly concerned initially, but the weaving got worse. Before we could pull over and stop, the trailer and hitch flipped our car onto its top. The trailer then broke loose and rolled down an embankment while the car skidded about 150 feet down the freeway on its top.

When the car finally stopped, our car partially blocked the right lane and shoulder. Motorists who stopped to assist were horrified at the wreckage and *never* expected to find two basically uninjured people inside the car, suspended upside down – hanging by their seat belts.

Personnel from the California Highway Patrol followed the trail of skid marks and shrapnel to the crumpled, upside-down car. Upon finding my father and me virtually uninjured, the common statement among them was "it was a good thing you were wearing your seat belts."

An ambulance took us to a nearby hospital for observation. The pavement scraped my father's arm when the car rolled over. Although my only injuries were bruises caused by the lap belt, I consider myself fortunate to have worn it. I am convinced I'm here today

because of the few seconds I took to buckle up. Since that day, I've worn a seat belt everywhere.

The importance of seat belt use in 1965 was not promoted as it is today. For that reason, it's hard to understand why – in 1999 –

anyone would travel in a car without buckling up.

Working in a safety office, I've seen many accident reports illustrating the rewards of wearing safety belts and the repercussions of not wearing them. People have survived head-on collisions, rollovers and being hit broadside, because they took the time to buckle up.

The skeptics who say seat belts aren't needed for short trips, or it's better to be thrown from a car to avoid being burned or drowned, haven't seen the statistics. More than 80 percent of crashes happen within 25 miles of home at speeds under 40 mph. The chance of being burned or drowned in a car is less than one-half of one percent.

You can believe the statistics, listen to stories like mine or wait to learn first-hand a lesson you may not be around to pass on to others: seat belts save lives.

Enlisted promotions: a perfect system?

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Those selected for promotion under the Weighted Airman Promotion System and the Se-

nior Noncommissioned Officer Promotion System praise the virtues of the program. Those not selected often find fault.

"Hero or villain, these promotion systems get a lot of press," said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Haley, chief of the enlisted promotions and military testing branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "Folks have directed most of the attention on changes to the promotion testing system that the Air Force began

implementing this year, but we also find ourselves addressing issues that examine the very heart of the program."

The Air Force uses these systems as its method of selecting enlisted personnel for promotion to

the grades of staff sergeant through chief master sergeant. The service implemented them in the early 1970s to replace a decentralized promotion board process. The Air Force wanted systems that selected the right people, simplified the process, and provided equity, consistency and visibility. They designed them to select NCOs of the same quality and mix of capabilities that the decentralized promotion boards were selecting, without the cost of holding the boards for the

See 'Promotions', page 8

People First: Board considers civilian incentives award nominees

Supervisors of outstanding civilian performers can nominate them for the 1999 Air Force incentive awards.

These are the highest awards presented by the service, including the Exceptional Civilian Service Award, Command Valor Award and Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award. The board will also review honorary awards sponsored by outside agencies as well as Air Force nominations for secretary of defense-level honorary awards.

The Air Force Incentive Awards Board reviews and recommends honorary award nominations to the secretary of the Air Force, and disapproves unsupported nominations or recommends alternative recognition. The board also reviews suggestions and other cash awards in excess of \$10,000 for Air Force recommendation to the assistant secretary of defense for force management policy. Incentive award nominations can be submitted up through major commands, field operating agencies or direct reporting units to the board. For details on how to submit nominations, see Chapter 3 of Air Force Instruction 36-1001, Managing the Civilian Performance Management Program.

The 1999 Air Force Incentive Awards Board is made up of 27 officers and civilians; three-fourths are first-time appointees, in grades GS/ GM-15 or colonel and above. They represent a broad range of Air Staff and Air Force Secretariat offices.

Border Eagle News March 26, 1999

Border Eagle

Col. Dan R. Goodrich Commander 1st Lt. Angela O'Connell Public Affairs officer Senior Airman Mike Hammond

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, Texas. Phone: 298-5262 Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication. Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be E-mailed to michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence not our goal, but our standard."

— 47 FTW motto

Safety Stats

As of Mar. 22 (Fiscal Year)

	² 99	Total '98
On-duty mishaps	1	11
Off-duty mishaps	7	7
Traffic mishaps	1	4
Sports & mishaps	Rec 3	3
Fatalities	0	2



Family readiness:

Child care, legal, financial issues important art of preparedness

"Basically, it's a working plan

for the care of loved ones and

personal property during a

separation. A lot more goes

into taking care of a family be-

sides who is going to be the

child care provider."

Tech. Sgt. Abranda Phillips

14 FTW family readiness coordinator

By Staff Sgt. Karin Wickwire

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

When people think about mission readiness, it's usually thoughts of up-todate shots, training exercises, mobility commitments and deployment capability that come to mind. One aspect of readiness that is just as important, but sometimes forgotten until the last minute, is family and personal readiness.

Family readiness for dual-service couples (military married to military) who have children and military members who

are single parents begins with the Air Force's mandatory dependent care plan.

According to Master Sgt. J. D. MacDonald, 14th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, the dependent care plan is a commander's prousually handled by first ser-

geants. It includes Air Force Form 357 (Family Care Certification), powers of attorney, and emergency points of contact.

It's important people fill out the plan correctly, MacDonald said. If it's not done right, it "causes a major nightmare for the unit because if a member has to [deploy], he has to go."

"If he has to go without an accurate dependent care plan," he continued, "then the children have to be taken care of by the first sergeant or who ever is in charge of the dependent care plan program until other care can be provided."

Incorrect dependent care plans can

bring disciplinary actions because a member didn't have proper care arrangements, MacDonald said.

The dependent care plan is mandatory for dual-service couples and single parents, but there are some couples who "slip through the cracks," the first sergeant added.

'Most people think if the spouse is a civilian, then the dependent care plan isn't needed," he said. "But military members with spouses who are disabled or extremely ill, and are unable to take care of their children without additional help, should com-

> plete the dependent care plan."

The family support center offers a more in-depth program with its family care plan, said Tech. Sgt. Abranda Phillips, family readiness coordinator here.

The family care plan should include guardianship paperwork for minor chil-

dren, legal authorizations for guardians and others, immunization records, special instructions not given elsewhere, and names, addresses and phone numbers of everyone included in the plan, explained Phillips. Checklists covering personal, legal, financial and practical matters help military members tailor a family care plan to fit their

"Basically, it's a working plan for the care of loved ones and personal property during a separation. A lot more goes into taking care of a family besides who is going to be the child care provider," she said.

See 'Readiness,' page 8

Readiness checklist

Personal matters

Have I:

- ☐ Contacted family support center ☐ Discussed communication during deployment
- ☐ Prepared a family care plan
- ☐ Obtained ID cards for family
- ☐ Completed emergency information worksheet
- ☐ Discussed feelings about deployment with my children
- ☐ Discussed benefits and assistance

Legal matters

Have I:

- ☐ Considered creating or updating my will
- ☐ Designated a power of attorney
- ☐ Completed estate planning
- ☐ Designated legal guardians for my children
- ☐ Completed the personal and family documents worksheet
- ☐ Safely stored important docu-
- ☐ Completed the record of emergency data

Financial matters

Have I:

- ☐ Discussed financial matters with loved ones
- ☐ Established needed allotments
- ☐ Developed a budget
- ☐ Selected life and health insurance
- ☐ Learned about dental and medical care
- ☐ Enrolled my family in DEERS
- ☐ Arranged for paying bills/taxes

Practical matters

☐ Put security measures in place ☐ Checked smoke detectors and re-

placed batteries as needed

(Courtesy AETCNS)

'Military equal opportunity' name reflects current mission

Air Force renames 'Social Actions' office to better reflect current mission

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has changed the name of its social actions offices to "military equal opportunity," to better reflect the human resource program's current mission.

"This is a change that strengthens (the equal opportunity and treatment) identity while separating its link to the past," said Lt. Col. Terry Hankerson, acting chief of the Air Force Human Re-

Substance abuse and EOT traditionally were part of Social Actions. With the change, EOT moves to the wing staff. Substance abuse has become a part of the Air Force Surgeon General's Office.

"The name 'Social Actions' is different from the other services," Hankerson explained. "The other services call it Equal Opportunity. So, this brings us in line with them."

Hankerson said the name change correctly defines EOT's mission to prevent discrimination. The Air Force program mirrors that of the Defense Department, which promotes the rights of

See 'Change,' page 8

Taste comparison fools some skeptics

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ruiz

47th Medical Group

In honor of National Nutrition Month, the Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) held a Taste Comparison on March 19.

The purpose of this taste test was to prove you can eat healthier foods and still enjoy the taste.

The HAWC staff, with help with from other clinic personnel, set up several tables with a variety of fat free, low fat and high fat foods and waited for the skeptics.

Airman 1st Class Melissa Stanley manned the Cream Cheese Station. She offered fat free (0 grams total fat) light, (5 grams total fat) and regular (10 grams total fat).

"Without a doubt, the light cream cheese was the overall winner on best taste and the fat free just bombed out," said Stanley.

Airman 1st Class Abdul Hajar worked the Salad Dressing Station where he offered ranch salad dressing in fat free (0 grams total fat) light (5 grams total fat) and regular (14 grams total fat).

"Ninety-nine percent of the people chose the light as their favorite," said Hajar.

At the Chip Station, Senior Airman Monica Cantu watched as the vast majority of tasters gobble up the regular tortilla chips.

"Most people complained about the taste of the fat free and light tortilla chips, but they couldn't really tell a difference between the potato chips except for the salt."

Meat and Cheese Station, which seemed to be the most popular, was run by Tech. Sgt. Verna Weinand.

"It was pretty much split three ways," said Weinand. "No one cheese really won out."

Weinand's station had the most surprising outcome of the afternoon.

"One hundred percent of the people tasting the bologna chose the fat free as having the best taste," Weinand said.

Tech. Sgt. Lesroy Matthews worked the Butter Station where he watched the look of surprise on the faces of many participants who were tasting reduced fat butter for the first time. "Almost everyone said that they really couldn't tell a difference between the two," said Matthews.

He also offered reduced fat and regular pound cake.

"An overwhelming amount of people liked the reduced fat better and actually thought it was more moist than the regular," stated Matthews.

Airman 1st Class Leslie Pucket who manned the Cookie Station said most people surprisingly liked the reduced fat chocolate cookies and said they would buy them.

The last stand was supervised by Maj. Kerri Wyble. The Popcorn and Candy Station offered alternatives to the fat filled favorites of video movie watchers

"We were in the middle, with most people preferring the light flavored popcorn," said Wyble.

As for the chocolate candies she offered, Wyble said "I think chocolate is chocolate. Almost everyone agreed and could not tell the difference between the two."

Thanks to some skeptical, but willing volunteers, we proved that most people are willing to reduce the fat in their favorite foods as long as they don't have to sacrifice the taste they are accustomed to. It seems many food manufacturers are taking note of that.

We all should be conscious of the amount of fat we consume. The best way to make healthy changes in your diet is to make one change at a time and you're more likely to stick to it in the long run. Just remember the phrase "everything in moderation."

In an effort to increase people's awareness about what they're eating, the HAWC is planning similar events for the next quarter.

To quote a line from one of my favorite movies, "Life is the ultimate experience... experience it."

Our job is to help make your experience a long and healthy one.

For more information, call 6464 or come by the clinic.

Laughlin's April promotees recognized

Congratulations to the following individuals with promotions effective the dates below:

Name/New Bank
Organization
Fffective date

Congrations to the journal maintains with promotions effective the dates below.				
	Name/New Rank	Organization	Effective date	
	1st Lt. Robert W. M. Tarrant	47th Comptroller Flight	April 18	
	Tech. Sgt. Brian K. Lewallen	47th Operations Support Squadron	April 1	
	Tech. Sgt. Joseph Hulsebosch	47th Civil Engineering Squadron	April 1	
	Staff Sgt. Michele L. Thornton	47th Mission Support Squadron	April 1	
	Senior Airman Sean M. Hackett	47 CES	April 24	
~	Senior Airman James M. Miles	47th Security Forces Squadron	April 11	
	Senior Airman Neils H. Roorda	47 CES	April 24	
	Senior Airman Natasha J. Van Reil	47th Medical Support Squadron	April 4	
	Airman 1st Class Charlton K. Coles	47th Medical Operations Squadron	April 3	
	Airman 1st Class John W. J. Doerschuk	47th Aerospace Medicine Squadro	n April 10	
	Airman 1st Class Theodore R. Manning	47th Services Division	April 10	
	Airman 1st Class Nicholas Masi	47 SFS	April 17	
	Airman Joseph W. Harvey	47 MDSS	April 14	
	Airman Bret R. Zielinski	47 CES	April 7	
An enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled at Club Amistad March 31 at 3:30 p.m.				

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

-Daily Mass 12:05 p.m. -Saturday Mass 5 p.m. -Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. -Confession 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. Saturday or by appoint-

Saturday or by appointment.

-Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays. -Sunday school, 11 a.m., religious education building.

Protestant

-General worship 11 a.m.
-Bible study video luncheon

11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.

-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

-Awana, Wednesdays, chapel from 6 - 7:30 p.m. (For more information on AWANA, call Mike or Karen Silver at 298-3247.)

Jewish

-Max Stool 219 West Strickland St.

Del Rio, Texas Phone: 775-4519

XLer

Hometown: Quincy, Ill.

Family: Mother, Susie; father, John; sisters, Katie, Allison and Natalie.

Time at Laughlin: 7 months. **Time in service:** 1 year, 5 months.

Job description:

Radio Maintenance Technician

One thing you would like to change about Laughlin/the Air Force: Make Laughlin a two-year controlled tour.

Long-term goals: I would like to be a high school teacher when I get out of the Air Force.

Why did you come into the service? To travel and for the education benefits.

What do you feel is the "hottest" topic in the Air Force and/or at Laughlin? Retention of qualified troops.

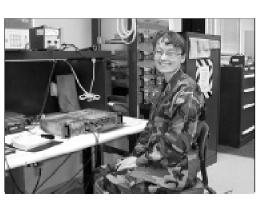
Previous assignment: Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Technical training.

Where would you like to go next:

Somewhere overseas.

Motto: "You reap what you sow." **Greatest feat:** Winning Support Group Airman of the Quarter, in my first quarter

at Laughlin.



Airman 1st Class Jennifer Grotts

47th Communcations Squadron Radio Maintenance Technician

Hobbies: Reading, dancing, and learning about my computer. **Inspirations:** My mother, I have always looked up to her. Bad habit: Prejudging people.

Favorite food/bever-

age:

Pasta/Iced Tea Favorite books/television show: History/

Redskins football. Walter Mitty fantasy: To have enough money so that

I could work less and spend more time traveling and relaxing with my family.

If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be and **why?** Stone Cold Steve Austin – to see what he's really like.

What was the most important event in Air Force History?



"Pearl Harbor and World War II. Air cover was found to be very important, and we ended the war with airpower."

Peggy S. Miles
Postal Service Clerk
Laughlin Postal Service Center



"The Berlin Airlift, because it was our nation's first use of the military for humanitarian relief."

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ruiz 47th Aerospace Medical Squadron Dietician



"The National Security Act of 1947 which created the United States Air Force."

2nd Lt. Dan Windham 47th Operations Support Squadron Student Pilot



"When Gen. Billy Mitchell urged the Senate to take a look at a demonstration of the bombing of a German ship. This changed the Senate's look on how important air power really is for the nation's defense."

Airman 1st Class Chad Workman 47th Fire Protection Flight Fire Protection Apprentice

'Promotions' from page 1

junior NCOs and while improving equity.

The system uses weighted scores to represent the factors identified by the senior NCO corps as most important for creating a balance of experience, motivation, skill and creativity needed to most effectively accomplish the mission of the Air Force. The designers established the weight assigned to each area so the list of people selected would virtually mirror the results that the experienced boards had been producing, while retaining a central board for selection to senior and chief master sergeant.

The Air Force then added weighted factors for senior and chief in 1976. These systems have accomplished all of the goals the Air Force established and more.

"We have the fairest enlisted promotion system going," said Col. Gary Blum, director of personnel programs management at the personnel center. "We receive far fewer congressional inquiries on this system than on any of the other personnel systems in existence, and that includes all the services' personnel systems.

"There will always be recommendations from the field for changes to the system," the colonel said. "Not surprisingly, most recommendations benefit a person in a particular circumstance. If folks tend to score low on the promotion tests, they want to give time in service or time in grade, or any other factor besides the tests, more weight.

"We review all the recommendations and implement change when it benefits the Air Force as a whole," explained Blum. "We have a visible system — we give feedback that makes it easy to see just what you need to do to improve your

score."

With each cycle those not selected for promotion receive a score notice that shows how they compared on each factor with others in their specialty. After reading the score notice everyone knows just what to do to be successful in the next cycle.

That there will be a next cycle marks another strength of the system. In enlisted promotions a member continues to compete — no stigma of nonselection carries into the next cycle. In fact, each year adds additional points for time in grade and time in service.

Additionally, the promotion tests motivate people to learn about their job and to learn about the Air Force, according to Blum.

"Studying for your promotion test also prepares you to do your Air Force job. The more you know, the better job you do for our Air Force and the higher score you can get on the promotion tests. That's quite a benefit."

Unfortunately, some resort to cheating to improve their score; however, they are a very small percent of test takers, less than one-tenth of 1 percent. The Air Force catches them and commanders punish them under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Are the enlisted promotion systems perfect?

"Maybe not," said Haley, "but they are the best and fairest systems in which hundreds of thousands of enlisted members in over a hundred different career fields compete to earn promotion."

For more on the enlisted promotion systems, visit the enlisted promotions Web page at the AFPC Web site at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

'Readiness,' from page 3

Phillips added the family care plan can be used by all military members regardless of marital status or if they have dependents.

"With the increase in deployments, it's possible everyone will be affected by some type of separation or deployment [in their military career]," said Phillips. "And while a single person may not have as many responsibilities as a married person or someone with a child, they still need to know who's going to pay the rent, or take care of the car or a pet while they are deployed."

Others who may want to consider adding the more extensive family care plans to their dependent care plans are those married to foreign nationals who may not be familiar with the United States or the local area. People who have family members with special needs should also consider it, Phillips said.

When it comes to readiness and military families, a family care plan can be of great help during times of deployments and separations by relieving a lot of stress and worry, Phillips said.

(Courtesy AETCNS)

'Change,' from page 3

all people to operate free from social, personal or institutional barriers and be evaluated on merit, fitness and capability. In turn, Hankerson said, this promotes unit cohesion and mission readiness.

The Air Force office symbol for the program has changed from SA to ME; however, the EOT approach remains the same: train and educate airmen through literature, mandatory briefings and professional military education.

In addition to the classroom, EOT workers perform unit climate assessments to help wing commanders measure the levels of morale, teamwork and communication among their people.

(AFNS)

Laughlin's "Spring Cleanup" set to begin today

With the fast approach of Spring, the 47th Flying Training Wing's Spring Cleanup Campaign is scheduled for today through April 12. We do a good job all year long in making Laughlin a great place to live, but let's take this opportunity to give the base a fresh, clean look.

The 47th Civil Engineering Squadron military family housing office offers the following guidelines for the cleanup: mow, rake or mulch lawns (both front and back), weed flower beds and ensure hedges and shrubbery are neatly trimmed. Empty bagged leaves or grass at the compost area, Building 800. Please don't leave unemptied bags at the compost area or at curbs. Remove all grass, as well as dead plants and weeds, from sidewalks and curbed areas. Cluttered carports, storage sheds and patio areas should be cleaned and in order.

Flowers were distributed to

housing occupants through the Pride Store March 13 and Saturday to help beautify lawns and to aid those interested in getting ready for the Yard of the Month program. This program begins in May.

Now is also the time to start lawn watering, but please be aware not to water during the extremely warm hours of the day (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.). We are not implementing watering schedules at this time; however, occupants can help conserve wa-

ter by watering on odd/even days, depending on the odd/even address of the house address.

To aid in the cleanup of the military housing area, two large trash containers will be available on Cannon Drive (behind O'Brien Street) and on Vandenberg Street at Arantz Street. These containers can accomodate items that will not fit in household trash bins — items longer than six feet or heavier than 70 pounds. Please do not place hazardous waste

materials, such as paint, oil or aerosol cans in these dumpsters. Items of this nature obtained at the Pride Store can be returned there.

For more information on the disposal of any items, call the 47th Civil Engineering Squadron at 4297.

Let's show "XL" teamwork by pulling together and continuing to make Laughlin a clean, beautiful base. Thanks for your continued cooperation!

(47th Civil Engineering Squadron)

Spring Stages III: Laughlin talent takes center stage Saturday night

Spring Stages III, Laughlin's base talent show, will come to life Saturday at the Fiesta Center here.

The show is free of charge, and all ages are welcome to participate.

Terra Wade, a performer in Tops in Blue during 1987, will be a guest performer. Her husband, Robert (who also performed with TIB during that time) will be the sound technician

Michelle Rossignol, Miss Del Rio U.S.A., will make a guest appearance. Michelle, daughter of Master Sgt. (Ret.) Chuck Booth, and Denise Booth, Youth Center Director here, will represent Del Rio at the Texas state competition in July. Should she win there, she would represent Texas in the Miss U.S.A. pageant. Also appearing will be Sandy Patuel, Miss Del Rio Teen U.S.A.

Put your trivia hat on and you can win some door prizes which will be given out throughout the show.

Don't miss this opportunty to see the outstanding talent Laughlin has to offer. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. Seating is limited, so come early. For more information, call KC at 5474.

(Courtesy 47th Services Division)



Miss DelRio U.S.A., Michelle Rossignol, will make a guest appearance at the talent show Saturday night.

Babying your infant's teeth grows healthy adult smiles

New parents may not realize the importance of caring for their infant's primary teeth.

Primary teeth are critical for proper chewing, speaking and appearance, and they reserve space for permanent teeth. Tooth decay can affect children by their first birthday.

Baby Bottle Tooth Decay is a condition that destroys the primary teeth of an infant or young child. It develops when a baby frequently receives a bottle of milk, formula, fruit juice or sweetened liquids as a pacifier, or the child is allowed to fall asleep with a bottle.

Prolonged breastfeeding may also cause this condition. Although the teeth most com-

monly damaged are the upper front teeth, other teeth may also be affected.

Bacteria are present in a thin film of plaque that constantly forms on the teeth. All types of sugar, including those found in bottle and breast milk, formula, fruit juices and sweetened liquids, can cause this bacteria to produce decay-causing acids.

How often a child receives a bottle containing these liquids and for how long a child's teeth are exposed to decay-causing acids are the two most important factors in developing baby bottle tooth decay. Parents can help protect their baby's teeth by doing the following:

■ After each feeding, wipe the child's teeth and gums with a damp washcloth or gauze pad to remove plaque. Begin brushing your child's teeth as soon as the first tooth erupts (around six months). Continue cleaning and massaging gums that remain toothless. Flossing should begin when all primary teeth have

erupted, usually when the child is 2 years old.

Never put your child to bed with a bottle. If your child needs a comforter between regular feedings, at night, or during naps, fill a nursing bottle with cool water or give the child a clean pacifier recommended by your dentist or pediatrician. Never give a child a pacifier dipped in any sweet liquid.

■ Never fill a nursing bottle with liquids such as sugar water sweetened gelatin or soft drinks.

■ Make sure your child gets the fluoride needed for decay-resistant teeth. Ask your dentist about recommended methods for obtaining the proper amount of fluoride.

For more information about protecting children's teeth, contact the dental clinic at 6331.



(Courtesy photo)

Small parts, big role

(From left) Col. Dan Goodrich, 47th Flying Training Wing, commander, Maj. Gen. Kurt Anderson, 19th Air Force, commander, Gilberto Martinez, 47th Operations Group quality assurance evaluator, Bo Bishop, Lear Siegler, Incorporated contract manager, Fred Goodspeed, LSI production chief and Rich Farris, LSI dock chief, discuss the importance of small jet engine parts, that are vital to reconditioning over 800 training aircraft, during Anderson's visit to Laughlin March 11.

Border Eagle Sports

Champs! CES takes dramatic come-from-behind victory, edges out 84/85th for base intramural championship

By Senior Airman **Mike Hammond**

In Saturday's nationally televised NCAA basketball tournament semifinals games, you will likely see intense effort, high emotions, and ultimately the thrill of victory along with the agony of defeat.

But it will all be old news if you were at the XL Fitness Center for Tuesday night's intramural championship game. You will have already seen it.

In Tuesday's game, with his team trailing 50 - 49, the 47th Civil Engineering Squadron's

Chris Taylor hit two free-throws with 10 seconds remaining lifting CES to a one-point victory and the base championship.

"We were overdue," said CES coach Dave Pugh. "This was a repeat of last year's finals match-up, when we lost to this team. In the regular season, we lost to them in quadruple overtime, so we're really glad we won it all this time!'

The game started with CES taking a quick 7 - 2 lead on shaky opening play by the 84/85th Flying Training Squadron team. But Derek "Doc" Witcher hit two quick baskets,

> Ennis Fowler, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron and wearing black, extends himself to get an errant pass near the hoop as Steve Warrior, 84/85th Training Squadron, defends. While this play was unsuccessful, CES made big plays down the stretch and won the game 51 - 50. CES finishes the season with an 8 - 3 record as base champions, while the 84/85th team suffered their only defeat of the season in Tuesday's intramural championship game.

igniting the 84/85th on a 6 - 0run in which they took the lead for the first time.

Taylor lead CES into a fastpaced attack, and both teams battled hard for the next 8 minutes of play. But the 84/85th took control with five minutes remaining in the half. Baskets by Witcher,

Luke Ahmamn and Steve Schifani, combined with unselfish assists from Phillip "Slim" Thompson and good time management by the whole team led to a 24 - 16 halftime lead for the 84/85th.

CES came out strong in the second half, playing aggressive defense which sent the 84/85th

reeling. Three consecutive baskets by Taylor brought CES to within one point before Ahmamn broke the 84/85th

drought with a basket.

The game was a true down-and-dirty battle from that point. Strong performances from Ahmamn, Thompson and Steve "Man of Steel" War-

rior kept the 84/85th in the lead. But Taylor and Ennis Fowler kept CES close with their scoring, while strong rebounding by Alex Vazquez ensured many second-chance shots.

The 84/85th kept just ahead until Taylor took his team on his back and began an onslaught of three-point shots which ate away the 84/85th lead. The score with 50 seconds left was 49 - 48 in favor of CES.

Warrior put the 84/85th up 50 - 49 with a "coast-to-coast" layup at the 40 second mark. Taylor ran the clock down to 10 seconds before being fouled, setting the stage for the dramatic game-winning free-throws.

Thompson led the 84/85th team with 13 points, with 10point games from Ahmamn and Warrior. Taylor finished the game with seven three-pointers and was perfect from the freethrow line for 34 total points.

The 84/85th team was undefeated in the regular season, for a final record of 10 - 1. CES finishes as champions with an 8 - 3 mark.



Newsline Border Eagle March 26, 1999 13

Library programs

The Book Mark Library is currently offering the following programs:

Story Time – volunteer conducted reading program for children.

Internet access – access provided by Park College at four terminals on first-come, first served basis.

YMCA Young Readers Program – essay contest for readers in several different age groups.

If you are interested in any of these programs, call 5119.

Scholarships

The Laughlin Officer's Spouses' Club and USPA/IRA are offering scholarships to military dependents who are graduating or have graduated from a local accredited high school. In addition, the OSC is offering scholarships to active duty or reserve military E-4 and below and spouses of active duty or reserve military personnel assigned to Laughlin.

All scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, leadership and citizenship. High school seniors may obtain guidelines and applications through counseling offices of Del Rio, Brackettville, Eagle Pass, Uvalde and Comstock high schools. Guidelines for military and spouses are available in the Base Education Office.

Call 289-1374 for more information.

More scholarships

The Xi Phi Sorority has two \$250 college scholarships available. Anyone may apply. Applications are available at South West Texas Junior College or Sul Ross University financial aid offices. The deadline for applications is April 30.

Call 774-3977 for more information.

Gold tournament

The 28th annual Commander's Golf Tournament is being held April 16 - 18 at the base course. There are still spots available.

If interested, call Wing Protocol at 298-5689.

Graduation dinner

Airman Leadership School Class 99-A will have a graduation dinner 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Club XL. The base populace is invited.

For more information, call 5456.

Tax representatives

Volunteer tax representatives will be available to all base personnel 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday at the base library. They will take customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call 5172 for additional information.

Tax preparation is also available 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. every Saturday at Casa de la Cultura Annex, 716 W. Garza.

TRICARE improvements

A recent change in TRICARE has removed the

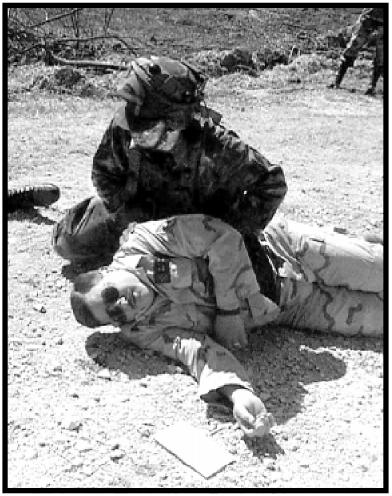


Photo by Zenaphir Bond

Training to protect

Staff Sgt. Christopher Black, 47th Security Forces Squadron, gives medical attention to Staff Sgt. Joe Tate, also with 47 SFS, during a Field Training Exercise here Saturday. Security forces trained on scenarios such as mass protest, sniper pursuit, establishing a crime scene and administering self aid.

need for Prime members to pay balance billing charges when they are referred to non-network providers. Now Prime members will not need to pay anything more than their co-payment for emergency, referred or pre-authorized medical care.

Additionally, as of Jan. 1, 1999, all out-of-network, non-participating providers, may charge no more than 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge for covered services.

Now that balance billing has been repealed for Prime beneficiaries, the beneficiary will only be responsible for their co-payment. This is true even if your Primary Care Manager or Health Care Finder refers you to a non-participating provider.

Be aware, however, that care received without proper approval will be billed under the Point-of-Service option, and increase your health care costs above your co-payment.

For more information about TRICARE Prime, visit your local TRICARE Service Center or call (800) 406-2832

Health care forum

The Health Care Advisory Council is a forum for exchanging information between the providers and consumers of health care at Laughlin. Representatives from most base organizations and from the retired population meet with members of the Clinic Executive Committee once a quarter on an informal basis.

The next meeting of the council will be held at 1 p.m. April 2, in the wing conference room. Please do

not miss this opportunity to express your satisfaction with or concerns about health care at Laughlin.

Call Mina Rodriguez at 6311 for additional information or to indicate attendance.

Women's week

Federal Women's Week begins Monday. The Federal Women's Program Committee here will sponsor workshops March Monday and Tuesday and a luncheon Wednesday.

Various motivational, work and health related topics will be discussed during the workshops.

Contact one of the following committee representatives today to make reservations:

Deana Shupe, 5400; Oralia Gonzalez, 4257; Kelly A. Potter, 5015; Malynda Emerson, 6418; Shelia Alexander, 5583; Tara Vasquez, 4226; Angela Yount, 5611; Dana Depack, 5441; Susie Weber, 5647; Kathleen Carson, 5715 and Anita Cox, 5236.

Civilian employee transactions

The Air Force Personnel Center announced recently that all civilian employees serviced by them can now complete the following transactions via the BEST website:

- elections under "New Permanent Employees and Temporary Employees Completing One Year of Continuous Federal Service,"
- changes and or elections under "Federal Employee Health Benefits Non-Open Season Enrollment/Changes in Enrollment,"
- complete and print the "Statement of Foster Child Status," and
- obtain the necessary forms to enroll in "Temporary Continuation of Coverage."

Lifesaving classes

The Del Rio Service Center of the American Red Cross will offer a class in community first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation 8:30 a.m. Saturday at La Quinta Motel. Courses meet all state childcare licensing requirements and teach participants to help people of all ages in a medical emergency. The cost is \$30.

Re-certifications for CPR professionals will be offered 8:30 a.m. April 3 at La Quinta Motel. This is a six-hour course that is required annually for all lifeguards. The cost is \$20.

The Red Cross is also taking names of persons interested in lifeguard classes.

For registration, call the Red Cross at 775-8626.

Financial management classes

The Family Support Center's Personal Financial Management Program manager is offering the following classes in April:

Checkbook management, 9 a.m. Thursday, Budget workshop, 9 a.m. April 6,

Personal Financial Management program for first termers, 1 - 2:30 p.m. April 9 and

Understanding Credit, 9 a.m. April 13.

Training is for anyone interested. Call 5109 to schedule

For questions or more information, call Master Sgt. Sandy Harper at 5574.